



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

President's Energy Budget Invests in Innovation, Clean Energy, and National Security Priorities

U.S. Department of Energy
February 14, 2011

DOE also making tough budget choices and instituting management reform efforts to save taxpayer money

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=483

America's Great Outdoors: A Promise to Future Americans

February 16, 2011

President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative to develop a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda. AGO takes as its premise that lasting conservation solutions should rise from the American people – that the protection of our natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans.

<http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/>

Kicking Off the ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit: Where Innovations in Energy Technology Are "Winning the Future"

The White House
February 28, 2011

President Obama has recently been talking about his plan to "Win the Future." Whether it's taking steps to reform our education system, rebuilding our infrastructure, or encouraging breakthroughs in technology, the phrase is about marshaling the country's best and brightest to solve today's problems. As the President put it, "To win the future, we have to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world, tapping the creativity and imagination of our people."

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/02/28/kicking-arpa-e-energy-innovation-summit-where-innovations-energy-technology-are-winn>

"Quick Impact on Climate Change: The Option of Reducing Short-lived Climate Forcers"

Daniel A. Reifsnyder, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

26th Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi (Kenya)

The United States welcomes UNEP's attention to the issue of near-term climate change, and we congratulate UNEP and the report's authors on the release of this new assessment and analysis.

This congratulation includes the U.S. government scientists who contributed to the report, including the report's chair, Dr. Drew Shindell of NASA.

<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/remarks/2011/157038.htm>

Vice President Biden Announces Plan to Put One Million Advanced Technology Vehicles on the Road by 2015

The White House

January 26, 2011

"The Administration's new three-part advanced technology vehicle plan will include supporting electric vehicle manufacturing and adoption in the U.S. through generous new consumer rebates, investments in R&D, and a new competitive program to encourage communities to invest in electric vehicle infrastructure" Biden words.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/01/26/vice-president-biden-announces-plan-put-one-million-advanced-technology->

Energy, Interior Departments Announce New Location for Solar Decathlon 2011

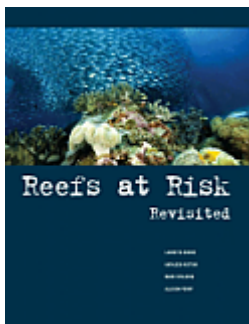
U.S. Department of Energy

February 23, 2011

The Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior today announced that the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2011 will be held at the National Mall's West Potomac Park, on the banks of the Potomac River along the path between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. Specifically, the event will be held on the peninsula just south of the new Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial - scheduled to open in August of this year - between the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and the Potomac River. The Decathlon will begin in late September as originally scheduled.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Energy-Interior-Departments-Announce-New-Location-for-Solar-Decathlon-2011.cfm>

THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



Reefs at Risk Revisited

World Resources Institute

February, 2011

This report provides a detailed assessment of the status of and threats to the world's coral reefs. It evaluates threats to coral reefs from a wide range of human activities, and includes an assessment of climate-related threats to reefs. It also contains a global assessment of the vulnerability of nations and territories to coral reef degradation.

<http://www.wri.org/publication/reefs-at-risk-revisited>

Industry Voices Support U.S. EPA Action on Clean Air Act

World Resources Institute

February 9, 2011

On Capitol Hill today, industry leaders and other experts explained why the upcoming U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) standards on carbon dioxide emissions can benefit U.S. business and help drive innovation while keeping our air and water clean.

<http://www.wri.org/stories/2011/02/industry-voices-support-us-epa-action-clean-air-act>

State of the World 2011: Innovations that Nourish the Planet

Worldwatch Institute

January 12, 2011

The 2011 edition of our flagship report is a compelling look at the global food crisis, with particular emphasis on global innovations that can help solve a worldwide problem.

<http://www.worldwatch.org/sow11>

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions From U.S. Transportation

Pew Center on Global Climate Change

January 2011

This report examines the prospects for substantially reducing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the U.S. transportation sector, which accounts for 27 percent of the GHG emissions of the entire U.S. economy and 30 percent of the world's transportation GHG emissions. Without shifts in existing policies, the U.S. transportation sector's GHG emissions are expected to grow by about 10 percent by 2035, and will still account for a quarter of global transportation emissions at that time. If there is to be any hope that damages from climate change can be held to moderate levels, these trends must change.

http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Reducing_GHG_from_transportation.pdf

The Option of an Oil Tax to Fund Transportation and Infrastructure

Rand Corporation

2011

This paper raises key issues associated with using an oil tax to fund U.S. transportation infrastructure, identifies the decisions Congress would need to make in designing such a tax, and outlines some of the likely implications of adopting an oil tax. In 2009, federal spending on surface-transportation infrastructure outpaced federal tax revenues on gasoline and diesel fuel. Increasing fuel efficiency results in less money spent buying fuel, so real revenue generated from these taxes has declined. This paper investigates using a percentage tax on crude oil and imported refined petroleum products consumed in the United States to fund U.S. transportation infrastructure.

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/occasional_papers/2011/RAND_OP320.pdf

ARTICLES

Statistics Show Large Gains for Biotech Agriculture in 2010

America.gov

February 25, 2011

<http://www.america.gov/st/scitech-english/2011/February/20110224172732kram0.6734583.html?CP.rss=true>

Piecemeal possibilities

Paying attention to alternative ways of cooling the planet is a good idea; ignoring carbon emissions isn't

The Economist

Feb 17, 2011

The planet-wide industrial exhalation of previously fossilised carbon is not the only way that humans are changing the Earth's climate. There are other greenhouse gases, other atmospheric pollutants, the effects of cutting down forests, and more: together these things may contribute almost as much as carbon emissions to global warming. In the face of an international inability to put the sort of price on carbon use that would drive its emission down, an increasing number of policy wonks, and the politicians they advise, are taking a more serious look at these other factors as possible ways of controlling climate change.

http://www.economist.com/node/18178073?story_id=18178073&CFID=157564403&CFTOKEN=60013472

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